



**The Fund for Women and Girls
Core Grants Program
Request for Proposals**

Posting Date: December 4, 2023

Closing Date: January 19, 2024

Objective of this Request for Proposals:

To receive funding proposals from nonprofit organizations that demonstrate a commitment to women and girls in Chester County for grant funding. Grant recipients should have a gender lens, with consideration for those who have lived female experiences. That is, they should demonstrate an understanding of the unique challenges women and girls face, and the ways in which systems, institutions, and policies must change to advance women's equality. In addition, the proposed requests should be specific and should provide deliverables, milestones, and/or achieve measurable outcomes. The work outlined in the proposal should be connected to long-term positive impact for women, girls, and individuals with lived female experiences.

Any organization applying for a general operating or capacity building grant must demonstrate that women, girls, individuals with lived female experiences, or mothers and their children in Chester County make up at least 75% of the organization's total target population.

Organizations applying for program or project support must demonstrate one of the following: 1) direct services supported by a Fund grant primarily benefit women, girls, individuals with lived female experience, or mothers and their children in Chester County; or 2) the proposed work will produce impacts that increase resources and opportunities for women and girls in Chester County.

Who is eligible to apply:

501(c)3 nonprofits or fiscally sponsored organizations that serve more than 75% women, girls, and individuals with lived female experience in Chester County, PA, United States.

Who is not eligible to apply:

Individuals

For profit organizations

Nonprofit organizations with neither 501(c)3 status nor a fiscal sponsor

Organizations that primarily provide services outside Chester County, PA, United States

Organizations that provide services to less than 75% women, girls, and individuals with lived female experience

Background:

The Fund's mission is to lead and unite the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive. To achieve this, The Fund is awarding grants to organizations or partnerships that demonstrate the ability to advance The Fund's mission. The Core Grants Committee, formerly known as Grants Allocation Committee (GAC) is made up of community members that use their lived experience and philanthropy education from The Fund to make informed grantmaking decisions. These Core



Grants use a gender lens to address persisting needs that affect women and girls in Chester County. All Core Grants are awarded for a period of two years.

Advocacy and Funding Priorities:

The Fund will consider funding organizations that address the following priorities as determined in its annual Advocacy Plan:

- Women's economic empowerment
- Gender-based violence prevention
- Access to reproductive and wellness care

Examples of services provided by our grantees include, but are not limited to:

- Vocational training and workforce preparation
- Access to reproductive and gender affirming care
- STEM and other educational programming for girls and gender expansive youth
- Services, supports, and resources for teenage mothers
- Improved access to women's health services
- Domestic violence services (prevention or response to)
- Housing and homelessness prevention
- Youth development programming focused on girls' leadership and empowerment

Through investment in these areas, The Fund will play an active role in providing equality and security for women, girls, and individuals with lived female experiences, making our communities stronger and more equitable for everyone.

Recent Changes to Core Grants Program:

The Fund will continue to award all core grants for a two-year period. The funding grant period is a 24-month period where funding for Year Two is dispersed after The Fund determines that the grantee continues to satisfy the grant requirements and funds remain available.

In its FY2024-FY2028 Strategic Plan, The Fund has committed to use its advocacy and funding priorities, defined above, to guide all of its practices and will use these priorities as a strategic filter for grantmaking. Please carefully review the priorities and guidelines to ensure that your grant proposal is aligned with our grantmaking priorities.

October 2023, The Fund implemented new grantmaking software. Foundant, accessible through any browser, is an intuitive, easy to use platform that allows grantees to apply for grants, preview the application, save progress and return to the application, and receive reminders for outstanding tasks.

If you have not applied for grants through Foundant prior, to log into the application you will need to create a new account. If you have used Foundant for another organization's grant application, *you still* need to create a new account. Foundant requires a different account for each organization's application. You can use the same login and password for multiple accounts, but a new login must be created.



For any technical questions regarding Foundant, please email Brandon Szerenyi, Director of Operations, at bszerenyi@thefundcc.org.

Other Notes:

- Anti-discrimination Policy: The Fund does not discriminate against organizations on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, military or veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under federal, state, or local law. The Fund upholds diversity and inclusion, recognizing that its work will be strongest with a rich variety of perspectives and lived experiences.
- Confidentiality Statement: The Fund takes confidentiality very seriously, and as such has confidentiality statements that must be signed by individuals, who, on behalf of The Fund (staff and volunteers) have access to any confidential information.
- The Fund will review all completed proposals submitted prior to the deadline.
- The Fund may not fund the full amount requested.
- Grant awards are subject to the approval of the full Board of Directors.
- It is not the intention of The Fund to establish an ongoing or permanent grant relationship with grantees.

Grants Available and Evaluation Requirements:

Organizations may apply in the priority area which they feel they align. In cases where more than one funding priority may apply, select ONE priority area best aligns with the program / organization mission. Organizations and programs must show how the services provided directly impact the individuals they serve. Additionally, the budget for the program must clearly detail the benefits to the targeted demographic, outlining how the organization/program will directly impact the outcomes for individuals within the three areas of funding priorities.

If organizations have questions regarding if their organization or program meets The Fund's grant requirements, funding priority criteria, or what funding priority category to apply to, please contact Program and Advocacy Manager, Blake Emmanuel, at bemmanuel@thefundcc.org.

In each of the funding priority areas; women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence prevention, and access to reproductive and wellness care, the following parameters apply:

- Grant size: \$5,000-\$15,000 (per year)
- Anticipated number of grants available: 5-8
- Length of grant period: 2 years

Grant requests can be for:

- Program/Project Grant: Funding for a specific initiative or new endeavor
- General Operating Grant: Funding for the general purpose or work of an organization, including personnel, administration, and other expenses for an existing program.
- Capacity Building Grant: Funding specifically to enhance organizational capacity and address important issues of organizational development and effectiveness (e.g. strategic planning, leadership development, technology infrastructure, etc.).

Application Timeline:

- December 4, 2023 – January 19, 2024: Online application is available
- January 19, 2024, **by 11:59 pm**: Application deadline
- January 2024-April 2024 Grants Allocation Committee reviews and issues proposal recommendations for Board of Directors
- February 26, 2024 – March 15, 2024: Interviews will occur for organizations*
- Early May 2024: The Fund's Board of Directors reviews and approves final grant recommendations
- Mid-May 2024: Selected grantees will be notified
- June 2024: Year One Funding Disbursement
- May 2025: Year One Report (Interim Report) Deadline**
- June 2025: Year Two Funding Disbursement***

*Organizations that are recommended to move forward in the grant review process after the initial application review will be contacted at the end of February for interview scheduling. Interviews can take the form of site visits, virtual meetings, or meeting at The Fund's office in West Chester. Determinations will be made by the grant seeking organization in collaboration with Fund staff. For questions about interviews, please contact Program and Advocacy Manager, Blake Emmanuel, at bemmanuel@thefundcc.org.

**Interim reports will be submitted through the Foundant software.

***Year Two Funding is contingent upon The Fund's determination that the grantee continues to satisfy the grant requirements and continued availability of funds

Proposal Preparation and Submission Guidelines:

To access the application, please click [HERE](#). Applications should be submitted through the application portal on the Foundant website no later than January 19, 2024, at 11:59 PM. Applications received after the deadline stated in the RFP (Request for Proposal) will not be accepted. The Fund will only consider complete applications. No other material such as videos, brochures, newspaper articles and other attachments will be considered by the Core Grants Committee.

As a part of the application process in Foundant, the organization must provide:

- Program description (in the form of open-ended questions)
- Proposed budget (as an attachment)
- Demographics breakdown of individuals who received services or are served by the organization (as a percentage)

For any questions you may have about The Fund, Core Grants funding, or applications, please contact Blake Emmanuel at bemmanuel@thefundcc.org. For any technical questions regarding Foundant, please contact Brandon Szerenyi, at bszerenyi@thefundcc.org.